

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF GREAT DRIFFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1919.

Driffield is a Market and Union Town with an area in acres (land and inland water) 4980, and a population (Census 1911) of 5676.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population during 1919 is for birth-rate 5698, for death-rate 5470.

The average number of persons per inhabited building is 4.19. Total families or separate occupiers 1343.

The town is the centre of a large agricultural district, and the chief occupation of the inhabitants is trade which consists in sale of corn, and other agricultural produce, linseed cake, lime, timber and general merchandise. There are two Cake Mills employing about 150 hands.

Two Markets are held weekly, a Corn Market and Cattle Market, which are among the most important in the North of England.

The Occupations do not to any extent affect the public health.

VITAL STATISTICS. As will be seen from the following statistics the health of the Town has greatly improved compared with last year, the death-rate (civilian) for the year was 13.16 per 1000, last year it was 21.77 per 1000 due to Influenza and Pneumonia Epidemic.

The average rate for the ten years 1901-11 was 16.4 per 1000.

The numbers of births and deaths registered show that there were 101 births and 72 deaths compared with 83 births and 117 deaths last year.

In 1913, 126 births and 102 deaths.

Of the births there were 62 males and 39 females.

The birth-rate was 17.7 per 1000, last year 13.78 per 1000, and 18.35 in 1917.

The average rate for the 10 years 1901-10 was 23.9.

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 18.5 per 1000, and for London 19.0.

The number of legitimate births was 75 (49 males and 26 females), illegitimate 26 (13 males and 13 females.)

Of the deaths there were 41 males and 31 females.

The death-rate was 13.16 per 1000. The average death-rate for the 10 years 1901-11 was 16.4.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 13.8 per 1000, and for London 13.4.

INFANT MORTALITY. Under one year of age the total number of deaths was 9 (8 males and 1 female), three of these were illegitimate (2 males and 1 female.)

The death-rate per 1000 births under 1 year was 89.1, last year it was 108.43, and the 10 years (1901-11) 10.4 per 1000 births. For the Great Towns including London 93 per 1000 births, and the Smaller Towns between (20,000-50,000) 90.

Rate per 1000 births from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years, 9.9.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1919—

		Rate in 1919	1918	per 1000
Influenza	- - 2	0.36		4.28
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil		0.93
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	0.18		Nil
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	1.63		2.2
Organic Heart Disease	13	2.37		2.6
Bronchitis	- - 7	1.28		1.8
Pneumonia (all forms)	- 1	0.18		1.86
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	0.18		Nil
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	0.18		Nil
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3	0.54		0.7
Congenital Debility, &c.	5	0.91		0.5
Other defined Diseases	28	5.11		6.14
Causes ill-defined or Unknown	1	0.18		Nil

THE AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF. The number of persons from the Urban District of Great Driffield who received Poor Law Relief during the year 1919 were as follows :-- Out of Door 148 (includes 11 also relieved in Institution.) Poor Law Institution 152 (includes 11 also relieved Out of Door and 3 in Asylums.) Lunatic Asylums 21 (includes also 3 relieved in Poor Law Institution.) Training Ship 1. Total 322. Less Persons counted twice 14, Nett Total 308.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT WATER. A constant supply of pure water, beyond suspicion, is available from the Town Waterworks, 510 houses are supplied from this source. Another source is from Wells and bore-wells of which there are 250, a whole terrace being frequently supplied with one or two pumps. Many samples of this water have been examined from time to time both by Chemical analysis and bacteriologically and found to be of good quality, but occasionally after heavy rains or where the pumps are out of repairs or in the case of the Wells being shallow, surface contamination has been found and the water of suspicious character.

If any form of contamination is reported the pump and well are examined and repaired, if no improvement follows tap water is substituted.

The Driffield Beck and Canal are polluted by rural streams and waterworks to the extent of rendering the water unfit for drinking, but not apparently prejudicial to fish life as large trout are caught in the Canal.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The Town is sewered throughout and the sewage is disposed of by being allowed to pass over filter-beds over five acres in extent, after the sludge has first been precipitated into settling tanks which are periodically cleared out. The method is intermittent downward filtration, and constant care is needed to prevent choking of the surface-soil or of the sub-drainage. The effluents enter the Canal.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Pail-closets and Water-closets are in vogue, of the former there are 1,272. Ashes are added to these which are removed weekly and cleansed by the scavengers. The number of water-closets is 250.

SCAVENGING. Public Scavengers remove night-soil and house refuse early in the morning once a week in covered carts to the country, which is prepared and sold for agricultural purposes. Ashpits and cesspools are cleansed once a month.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT. Tabular Statement by Inspector of Nuisances :—

(a) Dwelling-houses inspected	-	-	-	38
" notices served	-	-	-	None
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of ordinary				
Infectious disease	-	-	-	15
Disinfection after cases of Phthisis	-	-	-	3
Dwelling-houses found overcrowded	-	-	-	4
" yards paved	-	-	-	6
Privies converted to w.c.'s	-	-	-	4
" pail closets	-	-	-	2
New ashpits made	-	-	-	None
New water-closets	-	-	-	8
Number of house drains inspected	-	-	-	12
" remedied	-	-	-	12
" drains trapped or disconnected	-	-	-	2
" drains relaid	-	-	-	4
" drains better ventilated	-	-	-	2
" new drains laid	-	-	-	5
Nuisances from Animals found	-	-	-	5
" abated	-	-	-	5
(b) Number of notices served (Statutory)	-	-	-	1
" (informal)	-	-	-	27
(c) " complied with	-	-	-	27
Number of nuisances found	-	-	-	50
" abated	-	-	-	50
Houses newly supplied from water mains	-	-	-	10

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations. Dairies and Cowsheds :—

Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	-	-	-	18
Number of Cows	-	-	-	118
Visits to Cowsheds	-	-	-	105
Visits to Dairies	-	-	-	105
Defects found	-	-	-	3
Slaughter Houses --				
Number on Register	-	-	-	11
Visits to	-	-	-	90
Number of defects found	-	-	-	2
" remedied	-	-	-	2
Common Lodging Houses :—				
Number on Register	-	-	-	2
Visits to	-	-	-	25
Number defects found	-	-	-	2
" remedied	-	-	-	2
Canal Boats inspected	-	-	-	32

SCHOOLS. The sanitary conditions are very good. The water supply is from the Waterworks and of excellent quality.

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The supply of milk is satisfactory. It is delivered twice daily from the dairies of which there are 105 which are visited regularly; in summer time the cows are milked in the fields and cowsheds are then cleansed and limewashed. Cowsheds are limewashed half-yearly and the cows are groomed and washed frequently. Any cow which has the appearance of being tuberculous is examined by a Veterinary Surgeon.

Milk (Mothers and Children). The East Riding Health Visitor carries out this Order.

(b) OTHER FOODS. There were no cases found of unwholesome meat or fish, but 104 lbs of dates were condemned 18/4/19. The sanitary condition of premises where foods are exposed for sale was satisfactory.

There are 8 bakehouses on the register which have been inspected. No underground bakehouses exist.

Ninety visits were made to slaughter-houses and two defects found which were remedied.

No public abattoir has been established in the district, and there is no existing arrangement for inspection of meat at the time of slaughter.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 37 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, compared with 229 last year due to Measles epidemic in 1918.

Measles	-	-	5, compared with 195 last year.	
Diphtheria	-	-	7, "	3 "
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	11, "	9 "
Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	2, "	4 "
Scarlet Fever	-	-	7, "	12 "
Typhoid Fever	-	-	1, "	1 "
Erysipelas	-	-	3, "	2 "
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1, "	1 "
The do.			case was not examined for gonococci.	

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases are removed to the Hospital if there is room. Two cases of Diphtheria were isolated at home, the circumstances being favourable. The Typhoid Fever case occurred in the Workhouse, and was isolated in the Workhouse Infirmary.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to practitioners at once on application.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis have been utilised in 36 cases for Diphtheria, and 10 specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli. When cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever are removed to the Driffeld Isolation Hospital disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, as also the cases treated at home when cured.

Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases are reported from the Schools and the children excluded.

The East Riding County Council supply tickets of admission to the Hull Royal Infirmary, York County Hospital, and to the General Infirmary at Leeds for treatment of Venereal Diseases free of charge.

Small-pox. No case occurred during the year nor has there been a case of Anthrax or Rabies.

Sanitary Administration. Staff. Work of Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfection. 15 Dwelling Houses disinfected after cases of ordinary Infectious disease, and 3 after cases of Phthisis.

Overcrowding. 4 cases were found owing to lack of accommodation.

Hospital Accommodation available for Infectious Diseases. The Driffeld Isolation Hospital with two Wards is for the use of the East Riding Hospital area, which includes seven Urban Districts and eight Rural Districts, so that a bed is not always available. There is an Isolation Ward at the Workhouse Infirmary.

Local Acts. Special Local Orders :—

Building Byelaws have been adopted, the date of confirmation December 28th, 1874.

Dairies and Cowsheds. Regulations were adopted on Feb. 10th, 1913.

Arrangements for chemical and bacteriological work during the year. The Chemical Research Association Ltd. London, have a contract with the County Council to make examinations for Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and sputum for tubercle bacilli. Outfits are supplied.

Tuberculosis. For National Health Insurance patients 16 beds are reserved at Withernsea Sanatorium; for others beds are taken at other Sanatoria.

HOUSING.

(1). GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(i) There are 1343 houses with an average of 4.19 to each house for the working classes. There were no new houses erected for the working classes during the year.

(ii) Population. There were no important changes during the year and none are anticipated in future.

(iii) Extent of Shortage or excess of houses. It is considered by the Council that a scheme of Ten New Houses would be sufficient for the shortage at present, and then reconstructing the unfit houses. The Deputy Housing Commissioner comes to the conclusion that 30 houses should be condemned as unfit for human habitation in their present state, and at least another 20 could be considered below a reasonable standard. It might be possible by generally reconstructing many of the houses to make them fit for some years, but there is no surplus accommodation to enable this to be done; he therefore considers that a scheme of 20 houses is necessary to carry this into effect.

In the matter of sanitation and unhealthy areas though, perhaps from lack of time, he makes the mistake of siteing privy middens in forecourts and squares where none exist; they have been converted to pail-closets, the ash-pits are still there, and I recommend that they be done away with and the pail-closets be converted into water-closets.

A site for the new houses has been selected in a field at the lower end of the Avenue at right angles to Bridlington Road, which is very suitable, especially for the supply of water from the Waterworks.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of section 17 of the Act of 1919	...	...	...	...	20
Number found unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	6
Number of houses made fit for human habitation without formal representation					14
(ii) OVERCROWDING on 300 cubic feet basis	...	...			number 4

Causes---Families increasing and lack of accommodation.

(iii) Fitness of Houses. (i) The general standard of housing is fairly good, but in certain streets and squares the general standard of sanitation and living is below what is necessary for health and well being.

(iv) Byelaws relating to Houses. There is need for revision of existing byelaws.

(v) Appendices. (1) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1909 (a). Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Section 20. Number considered unfit for human habitation 6. Number of Dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without making Closing Orders 14.

The unfitness of the houses mentioned was due to in 8 very old cottages, a scullery where food is kept, upper storey roof slopes to the floor, dormer windows 3 ft. from floor, not properly ceiled, through ventilation, but no through access, dampness, defective roofs. One pump and two gulleys with open channel running along the front into which dirty water is thrown.

In others there is a common narrow back yard not properly paved, one gully to every 3 or 4 houses, in three or four houses small yards with no outlet, refuse to be carried through house. Some houses are dilapidated with sloping roof, back bedrooms maximum height 5 ft. In some the upper rooms are unused owing to leaks, and falling plaster and unsafe staircases.

ADDENDUM.

The Work contemplated for the years 1920-21 is the building of 10 houses in a good position never before built on, with perfect surroundings, which was bought by the Council. The standard of house is going to be very good, with 3 bedrooms upstairs, also bathroom and lavatory, and downstairs sitting-room, kitchen and scullery, with perfect drainage and water supply. This scheme I understand is to be carried out not later than the beginning of the year 1921.

The reconstructing of the houses, unfit for habitation, is then to be proceeded with immediately, so as to make them fit for some years.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BURGESS.

DRIFFIELD,

29TH MAY, 1920.